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Letter dated 5 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instruction from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement adopted by the Milli Mejlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 28 April 2000 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Eldan **Kouliev**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 5 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Statement adopted by the Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 28 April 2000

In connection with the plans to hold "elections" to the so-called "parliament of the Nagorny-Karabakh Republic" in June 2000 in the highland part of the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, the Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan deems it necessary to state the following:

At a time when the Armenian armed forces are still occupying Nagorny Karabakh, which is an integral part of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and when the Azerbaijanis, who are the local population of the region, have been driven from their homes, the holding of "elections" to organs of power of the puppet regime established with the aid of foreign intervention contradicts the universally accepted international legal principles and norms, and the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and has no legal force. This latest political provocation, grossly violating the normal civil rights of the 50,000 Azerbaijanis driven from the highland part of Karabakh, demonstrates the intention of the Armenian separatists to hinder efforts to establish lasting peace in the region.

Expressing the sovereign will of the Azerbaijani people, the Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan regards the holding of "elections" to the "parliament" of the so-called "Nagorny-Karabakh Republic", which is not recognized by a single State, as an attempt to flout the sovereignty and independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, encroach on the territorial integrity of the Republic, and legitimize the puppet regime.

Legal organs of power, including elected representative bodies, may be established in the highland part of Karabakh only after the consequences of the aggression by the Republic of Armenia against Azerbaijan have been eliminated, the sovereignty of the Republic of Azerbaijan has been fully established throughout its territory, the Azerbaijani refugees have returned to their homes, and the ethnic map of the region which existed before the occupation has been restored.

As is well known, international efforts to resolve the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict began with the establishment in May 1992 of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the definition of the mandate of a future peace conference. Security Council resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993), adopted by the Council in 1993 with regard to the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, have become an integral part of the legal basis for a settlement. The decision issued in 1994 at the Budapest summit of OSCE, and also the decisions of the Lisbon summit of OSCE of 1996, which defined the principles for the settlement of the conflict, namely the principles of confirming the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and Armenia, granting Nagorny Karabakh the lofty status of self-government within Azerbaijan, and guaranteeing the security of the entire population of Nagorny Karabakh, were an extremely important political achievement for a just settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict.

It must be noted with regret that in the subsequent period, all the options for a settlement proposed by the co-chairmen of the Minsk Group on the basis of the resolutions of the Security Council and the decisions and final documents of the Budapest and Lisbon summits of OSCE failed to produce results precisely because of the destructive actions of the Armenian side. The criminal political game of holding "elections" to the so-called "parliament" in the highland part of the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan should also be viewed from this perspective.

The Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan informs the international community that the attempt to hold these illegal "elections" will have an adverse effect on the course of the peace talks for a settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict.

The Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan calls upon the Armenian community of Nagorny Karabakh to renounce these criminal actions, put an end to the gross violations of the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and stop disrupting the peace talks.

Once again confirming the commitment of the Republic of Azerbaijan to a peaceful settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, the Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan calls upon the Armenian side to take a constructive position in the peace process, and to refrain from any actions which would complicate the talks which are being conducted within the Minsk Group of OSCE.

The Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan calls upon the United Nations, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States, other international organizations, and the parliaments and Governments of countries of the world, to put a stop to the provocative action of holding so-called "parliamentary elections" in the highland part of the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, which is infringing on the peace process, and to assist the peaceful settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict within the framework of the Minsk Group of OSCE.